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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the parting of my ring, pectoral cross and soutane, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

Editorials

COLLECT FOR TUESDAY, THIRD WEEK IN LENT.

"Graciously hear us, O Almighty and Merciful God; and favorably grant to us the gifts of wholesome self-denial. Through Our Lord."

PATRON OF THE FORGOTTEN MAN

Much has been made in recent months of the "forgotten man." Not everyone can be a leader in the sense of being prominent in any one of the social movements of mankind. The rank and file of men are necessarily born to obscurity and to passing a life time unknown to the world outside their own immediate community. If a man were to walk through the streets of even one of our small cities and know everyone whom he should meet, it would be considered a remarkable incident.

A picture of the ordinary man shows him in a constant struggle for bread for his family and for a place to rear his children in peace and love. Every day is very much the same,—not much adventure, not very much of the luxuries of life, and not too much security against the future. The human race can verify almost any time the prophecy made to Adam that he could earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. A general glance at the world tells us that it is a poor man's world;—indeed, a very poor man's world! As a matter of fact, a man who can by his labors earn enough to feed and harbor his family in peace would be the economist's ideal of a contented man. Undoubtedly millions of men today yearn for even this modicum of prosperity.

St. Joseph was one of the obscure, forgotten men of his time. We know that he was only an ordinary working man and that he was very poor. There seems to be a note of contempt in the Scriptural reference to him when Our Lord was spoken of as the carpenter's son. Yet all the love and peace and contentment contained in Holy Mother Church's description of him as a "just man" are beyond human expression.

A more appropriate and understanding patron could not be presented to the ordinary man today. During the month of March the Church wishes her children to concentrate their devotion on St. Joseph, and to imitate his virtues. What more efficacious intercessor could be thought of for the man who is out of work or who, though working, is faced with great odds in supporting those whom he loves? May they turn to St. Joseph in their difficulties; and through him may God be pleased to restore at least the minimum of prosperity to the average family!

DESTRUCTION OF THE SPECIES

Mrs. Margaret Sanger spoke, as usual, at the senate sub-committee hearing on the proposed bill for legalization by the Federal government of birth-control literature. So did Rabbi Sidney Goldstein of the Free Synagogue in New York City. Mrs. Sanger wants not only legalization of her teachings but also Federal money to enforce them. In addition, Rabbi Goldstein wants the family to be nationalized by some kind of law that will procure a limit of three children to each family,—at least that is how some interpret his remarks. His recommendations are connected, not adroitly, but rather crassly,—with the present general program for Federal recovery and, somehow or other, with the idea of a minimum wage.

This interjection of the Rabbi's recommendations is rather benign. To interpret them as a move to destroy the race would be much nearer the truth. At last we have come to the point where it is fashionable to talk about the survival of the fittest; henceforth the mode will be about the destruction of the species. The fittest evidently continue on in existence, but the unfit refuse not to survive. So therefore, let both the fittest and the unfit continue on in limited numbers, and let all the rest die, by murder, neglect, sickness, or whatever other manner, even birth control. The world is a small one and there is too much of a crowd in it already.

The idea of birth control as a privilege is bad. As an obligation, subject to the penalty made laws it is simply unbearable. How, in the face of the teachings of social psychology and the findings of abnormal psychology, of psychology and even of Freudian psycho-analysis, the present Rabbi can advocate such a thing is beyond comprehension. They throw babies away in China, what he has in mind? If so, why not let the population of China be killed as soon as born? And, if that type of murder is to be legal, once the step has been taken to permit the killing of all un-

the rabbi and his followers think that they are desirable,—not necessarily unfit—people? If going to secure legal limitations of families by contraceptive methods, they show themselves guilty of ignorance of the strongest passions of human nature. If such legal limitation is to be secured, then besides contraception, infanticide must be restored to or abortion, neither one of which can be avoided under such an arrangement, and neither one of which will diminish one iota the sum of human misery, either physical or mental.

When the government is taking out of production millions of acres of land and urging the curtailment of production in industry, it is a contradiction to suppose that the country of the world can not accommodate the present population or even a greater one. To advocate birth control because of economic reasons is a plain hysterical argument. Nor must it be forgotten that behind all the present economic disturbance is a great amount of selfishness. Overcome this selfishness, and the population will take care of itself without any legal interference in the birth rate.

It is hard to imagine a minister of the God of Abraham talking in such a manner. One of the features of the Jews that the world has always admired is their family life and their pride in large families. Can Rabbi Goldstein reconcile these traditions with his profession and still ask his Jewish fellow worshippers to break the fifth and sixth commandments that were originally given to his forbears?

THE REAL DIFFICULTY

It is difficult to appraise the serious student of religion outside of the Catholic Church, for too often such a student excludes himself from being taken seriously for the simple reason that he takes it for granted that the Catholic Church is not a real thing. Much is made of the scientific method of study or the objective method, which means to draw conclusions from the observation of the many facts that come within the scope of experience—but when it comes to matters of religion and philosophy, the so-called scientific student,—if he is interested in such matters at all,—very often finds his objectivism suddenly turned into subjectivism. And this is his real difficulty, the only experience he can draw from is his own feeling, for religion is not one of those things that constantly hurt themselves at our senses. The human heart is full of desires; to moderate these desires according to knowledge is the great human task. Very often these desires result in measuring God according to limits of little human minds.

In his book, *See I See*, Arnold Lunn illustrates this attitude very simply: "A little girl was once discovered by her mother drawing a picture. 'What are you drawing?' said her mother. 'I'm drawing God,' said the little girl. 'You can't do that,' replied her mother. 'Nobody knows what God looks like.' 'They'll know now,' said the little girl, and went on drawing." Unconsciously the little girl was doing only what many professed thinkers are doing.

Relating his own experience, Arnold Lunn tells us in the same book: "I remained firmly stuck for years in the swamp of subjectivity. I was, though I knew it not, wasting my time in the search of a Christ whose teaching I could conscientiously preface with the words, 'Sicut Obstat Arnold Lunn.'"

This attitude is not at all uncommon.

Current Comments

TAX EXEMPTION

In what seems to be a nationwide movement, attention is being called to the large amount of property exempt from taxation, and efforts are being made to eliminate these exemptions. In Pittsburgh last week publicity was given to the figures for Allegheny County, which show that 17.7 per cent of all the real estate holdings in the county pay no taxes. It is stated that these exempt properties are owned by churches, schools, municipalities and public utilities.

The reasons why these various classes of property have always been exempted are all based on the assumption that they are necessary for the public welfare and that taxing them would only restrict their usefulness and throw the same financial burden on the community in some other form. Insofar as the present agitation is directed toward removing from the exempt list any properties not legally entitled to be there it must be approved, but if it is an attempt to obstruct and embarrass the churches and schools the fact should be known. It was rather misleading to mention the churches as included in the owners of exempt property here, without making it clear that their holdings are less than one-sixth of the total, and without stressing the fact that they are operated, not for profit in any way, but at a heavy financial burden to their members.

The subject is an important one and it is bound to arouse general interest at this time when demands are made on all sides for the reduction of taxes. There is no reason why the churches should be made the victims of this agitation and their position in the matter should be more widely known and understood.—The Pittsburgh Catholic.

A NOTED SAINT

While birth control discussions are raging over the country, it is interesting to recall that St. Catherine of Siena and her twin sister, who died in infancy, were the youngest of twenty-five children by the same mother. St. Catherine was born on March 25, 1347 and is one of the most remarkable characters in history.

People today marvel at the case of Theresa Neumann in Konnersreuth but all these manifestations appeared in the life of St. Catherine. She prophesied, read secret thoughts and saw the hidden depths of men's souls. Added to this she was given infused knowledge, the stigmata, and lived a great part of her life without the sustenance of food and drink and solely upon the Holy Eucharist.—Catholic Citizen, Milwaukee, Wis.

Life's real heroes are those who not only bear their own burdens bravely but give a helping hand to those around them.

Diocesan Recordings

It is well to keep in mind in observing St. Patrick's Day, that the day has been set aside by the Church as a holy feast day. Too much emphasis must not be put on the "feast" in preference to the "holy."

Chancellor Hitler of Germany is reported as once more publicly professing his Catholic faith in a brief biography written by himself and inserted in the official new Reichstag Directory just off the press. It is hoped that he will not be inconsistent in bearing the title "Catholic" and acting otherwise as so many "leading Catholics" who fail in being "Catholic leaders."

"Can it be that the Catholic Revival in America has definitely started with the stage?" asks Father Lord, distinguished Jesuit in a column he writes for Catholic newspapers. Father Lord points out that in a current melodrama on Broadway, a Catholic bishop converts an atheist and gives him absolution as "Wednesday's Child" is the story of a child torn to pieces through the divorce of parents, a just Catholic protest against divorce. Maxwell Anderson's Catholic "Man of Scotland" is a saint, Father Lord states. Philip Barry (formerly of Rochester, whom Father Lord in his column declares stayed far from Catholicism and stayed in his dramatic past, offers Lillian Gish as a Catholicism in "The Joyous Season." Eugene O'Neill's play of returning faith that ends at the foot of the crucifix, he says, "has been steadily increasing in popularity and the size of audiences." With the admirable trend in the stage, which leads them to every effort to see the modern and present in their writings, the shining of the light of faith are promoted for the enlightenment and moral advancement of all.

In the movement to advance clean plays, amateur productions in our diocese should be given encouragement. The diocese is conducting a Catholic Little Theater Contest for a good one we direct and should be given every encouragement. Intensive work is required of those directing and participating in amateur productions and the best reward for those engaging in such work is to see their own audience enjoying a production of what is being done to provide wholesome entertainment.

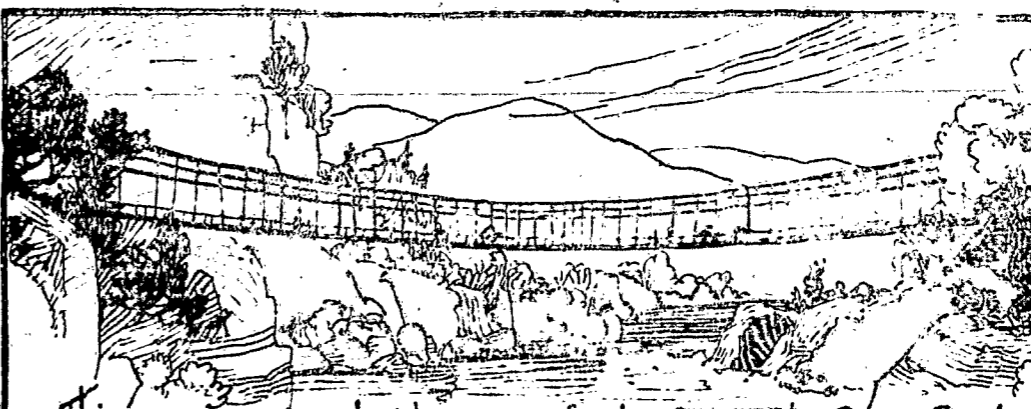
Commenting upon our devotion to ideals there is another group that deserves encouragement and that group is the Rochester Knights of Columbus Social Society. Throughout the year this organization faithfully rehearses for its annual concert with the sole purpose in mind of raising the musical standard of Catholic lay people. This group is ever ready when called upon to furnish services in civic and Catholic affairs. The only recompense asked is a large attendance at the annual concert, to be held this year on St. Patrick's Night, March 17. Rochester's music critics have accorded this organization of Catholic men a high place in choral singing. Their program each year is always enjoyed by those who attend the concerts.

People in the news: the Rev. Leonard Downey, C.S., is giving Lenten sermons at St. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira, on Wednesday evenings. Dr. Joseph P. O'Hern, deputy superintendent of Rochester Public Schools who will retire at the end of June has been honored in the Rochester Teachers' Association magazine, *Schoolways*, being described as "a wise and capable leader, a warm-hearted friend, a modest scholar and Christian knight, who will be sincerely missed at his post." Thomas J. McCarthy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. McCarthy, 630 East Avenue, Rochester, is vice-president of the Gaston debating team of Georgetown University, victorious in a debate against Manhattan College, recently.

With the announcement of dates for the annual retreat of the Rochester Laymen's Retreat Association, news of lay retreats becomes of more than ordinary interest. The N.C.W.C. News Service correspondent in Australia sends word that the retreat movement has begun there. The first retreat for men has just taken place in the Mitta Mitta Valley, in the northeast state of Victoria. Seventy men took part in the exercises, which were conducted by the Franciscan Fathers. It has been announced in Melbourne that a fund will be started there to provide week-end retreats for the unemployed. The cost per capita is estimated to be four dollars. The St. Vincent de Paul Society will make the selection of suitable retreatants. With shorter working hours, the trend of the times in this country, lay retreats hereafter would be an excellent means of making valuable leisure time.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

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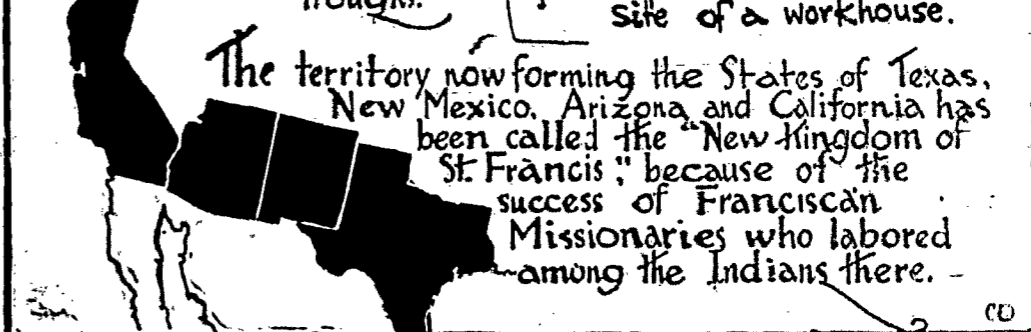
This suspension bridge, 125 feet above the River Paute, was built by Salesian Missionaries in lower Ecuador, a Bishop directing construction of the 275-foot span.



By pressing their muzzles against a mechanically controlled device, cows on the model farm at the Papal Villa of Castelgandolfo can fill their own water troughs.



The great Metropolitan Cathedral of Liverpool will rise on the site of a workhouse.



The territory now forming the States of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California has been called the "New Kingdom of St. Francis," because of the success of Franciscan missionaries who labored among the Indians there.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

The Catholic Evidence Library has been the subject of a number of articles in the *Brooklyn Tablet*. The Tablet is a daily paper published in New York City. It is one of the most interesting of historical papers in history. It was first published in 1845 and has since that time been a most interesting character in the history of the city. The Tablet is a daily paper published in New York City. It is one of the most interesting of historical papers in history. It was first published in 1845 and has since that time been a most interesting character in the history of the city.

Mr. Winchell should stick to the usual haunts for scandal, to boulevard and refuse piles, for his gossip. That is more in his line. That is his business, where he is most successful, where he finds his clientele and makes his money. Characters like St. Joan of Arc, judging from his remarks in the *Mirror*, are above his comprehension, taste and intelligence.

St. Joan of Arc died at the stake when she was only nineteen, and yet she is one of the most interesting of historical figures. Her trial almost parallels that of Jesus in the attention it has commanded from succeeding centuries. The actual records of it have been translated into English in a most attractive volume called "The Trial of Jeanne D'Arc" which has been placed in the Catholic Evidence Library. You will find reading it one of the landmarks of a lifetime. It is one of the world's great books.

The Catholic Evidence Library has but three other books on the life of this heroine soldier-saint—each one having so much individual character and merit that comparisons would miss the mark. They are: My Jeanne D'Arc—Marianne Joan of Arc—Hilary Bellon—The Sword of God—Guy Endore. However, we may hint that younger readers will be perhaps most attracted by the first, that devotees of Bellon will find some

In the second while the third will have a more realistic and historical character.

The *Mirror* is a satirical paper, but it is not a serious one.

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Silence is the safest response for all the contradiction that arises from impertinence, vulgarity or envy.

The salvation of a single soul is of more value than all the riches in the world.

He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own.

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